



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of entry 09/18/2015

On September 17, 2015, Jerry ARMENTA, date of birth [REDACTED] was interviewed at the United States Attorney's Office in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Individuals present at the interview were Special Agent (SA) Bryan Acee and SA Joseph Sainato of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), District of New Mexico Assistant United States Attorney Maria Amrijo, Dona Ana County Deputy District Attorneys Daniel Dougherty and Davis Ruark, and Ruben Archuleta, Daniel Blanco, Chris Cupid, Ron Martin and Sergio Sapien of the New Mexico Department of Corrections. After being advised of the identity of the interviewing Agents and the nature of the interview, ARMENTA provided the following information:

ARMENTA was brought into the Syndicato Nuevo Mexico (SNM) gang in 2005 by Michael ARMANDARES, when ARMENTA intervened in an altercation in which ARMANDARES was being attacked by 8 members of the Surenos gang. Validated SNM members who voted for ARMENTA's membership were James JOKUM (sp), Sam SILVA, Gerald ARCHULETA, Michael ARMANDARES and Frank GONZALES.

Gerald "Styx" ARCHULETA told Michael ASTORGA the only way for him to get back in good standing with the SNM again was to kill a police officer. ASTORGA later murdered Deputy James McGrane of Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office. This act made ASTORGA "good" again in many SNM members' eyes, to include ARMENTA. At the time of this interview, ARCHULETA was in Tennessee but was still in good standing within the SNM and maintained a leadership position.

Benjamin CLARK confessed to ARMENTA that he was present when Edward "Huero" TROUP strangled "Fred-Dog."

With regard to the murder of Javier MOLINA, ARMENTA provided the following information:

Investigation on 09/17/2015 at Las Cruces, New Mexico, United States (In Person)File # 281D-AQ-6239655Date drafted 09/17/2015by Joseph Sainato

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Continuation of FD-302 of 9/17/15 Interview of Jerry ARMENTA, On 09/17/2015, Page 2 of 2

Daniel "Dan-Dan" SANCHEZ "called for" the murder after seeing "paperwork" provided by Jesse SOSA, which implicated MOLINA as an informant in a case in which SOSA was a co-defendant with MOLINA. The "paperwork" was a police report which contained statements made by MOLINA. The report was obtained by Anthony Ray "Pup" BACA in the Northern New Mexico Correctional Facility and was passed to the Southern New Mexico Correctional Facility by Lupe URQUIZO and Archie VARELA, who in turn passed the report to Daniel SANCHEZ, Timothy "Red" MARTINEZ and Mario "Blue" RODRIGUEZ.

SANCHEZ gave ARMENTA the order to carry out the murder because he needed to "put in work" for the SNM, and threatened to have ARMENTA killed if he refused. On March 7, 2015, SANCHEZ instructed ARMENTA to go to Mario RODRIGUEZ's cell, where RODRIGUEZ provided ARMENTA with a shank he had made and showed ARMENTA how to use it. RODRIGUEZ and Timothy MARTINEZ entered MOLINA's cell under the guise of using heroin together. Once inside, MARTINEZ choked MOLINA to the point of unconsciousness. MARTINEZ and RODRIGUEZ then left the cell and Jerry "Plazz" MONTOYA and ARMENTA entered the room and began stabbing MOLINA. MOLINA regained consciousness while being stabbed, got up and ran from his cell down to the lower level. MONTOYA and ARMENTA gave chase and stabbed him several more times. Throughout the attack, Daniel SANCHEZ sat at table he knew to be within view of a camera, so as to avoid implication, however he yelled something to the effect of "Get him! Get him!" during the chase.

After the attack, Jerry MONTOYA threw the shank he had used in the stabbing up onto the upper level, where it was recovered by Mario RODRIGUEZ. RODRIGUEZ then hid the shank in the showers.

With regard to the SNM call for murder of Greg Marcantel and Dwayne Santistevan, ARMENTA provided the following information:

While ARMENTA was in "X pod" with Robert MARTINEZ, Robert MARTINEZ told ARMENTA that he put out the "hit order" under the orders of Roy MARTINEZ. ARMENTA believes the reasoning behind the hit order was due to the fact that SNM members have been "locked down" for too long.

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Filing and Security

UNCLASSIFIED

Primary Case: 281D-AQ-6239655

Case Title: (U) Operation Atonement;
Syndicato de Nuevo Mexico;
Violent Prison Gang

Serial Number: 142

Serialized: 09/18/2015

Category: Full Investigation

Initiated: 04/02/2015

Restrict to FBI Only: Yes

Justification: [REDACTED]

Details

Document Title: (U) 9/17/15 Interview of Jerry ARMENTA

Drafted Date: 09/17/2015

Type of Activity: Interview

Methods: In Person

Investigation On: 09/17/2015

At: Las Cruces, New Mexico, United States

Details: (U)

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ARMENTA was brought into the Syndicato Nuevo Mexico (SNM) gang in 2005 by Michael ARMANDARES, when ARMENTA intervened in an altercation in which ARMANDARES was being attacked by 8 members of the Sureños gang. Validated SNM members who voted for ARMENTA's membership were James JOKUM (sp), Sam SILVA, Gerald ARCHULETA, Michael ARMANDARES and Frank GONZALES.

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1A/1C Packages

Package 1A60

Summary: (U) Interview notes.
Acquired By: Joseph Sainato

Acquired On: 09/17/2015
Receipt Given: No


Attachments: UNCLASSIFIED
 (U) Interview notes.
 Physical Record

Indexing

Display Name	Enterprise Role	Entity Role	Entity Type	US Person
<u>Jerry ARMENTA</u>	CASE INDEX	Reference	PERSON	Unknown

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Routing

Drafted by: Joseph Sainato 

Approved by: SSA SONYA K. CHAVEZ 

Distribution: AQ-CRIM (OST)